

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Hearing Date: March 18, 2021 8:00 AM

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COMMENTS FOR: HB 1382

Kellye Duncan

self

San Angelo, TX

Dear Committee members,

Election integrity is vital to every community & county across our great state regardless of party preference. We must maintain our voter ID laws and have other means to maintain the truth in all elections. If we must show an ID to purchase beer, wine, alcohol, tobacco, BOARD AN AIRPLANE, cash a check or any other multiple times, we must prove who we are when voting. I would hate to learn that my mother had voted - she has been dead since 1997. I would hate to learn that my neighbor had voted even though he is not a registered voter. Please review with your heart the logical and legal methods to ensure our elections are true and fair. Thank you for your service to our great state of Texas!

Joan Reames

self retired

Austin, TX

My name is Joan Reames. Thank you to Chairman Cortez and the members of the House Committee on Urban Affairs for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding House Bill 824.

I encourage you to vote YES on this bill. A YES vote will have a positive impact financially and spiritually on the lives of seniors, disabled persons, veterans, and families of deployed personnel...those of us at the very core of our communities.

I live and have lived in two of the above categories: first, as part of a family of deployed personnel; now as a senior citizen. As a young mother of three small children my husband was called to duty in Vietnam twice. This meant moving to and from the protection of military housing. For military families like my own living in these conditions, any relief such as not having to pay a drainage bill is crucial. For many of us, it means grocery money.

Now, as a senior citizen I live in a condo in an area annexed by the City of Austin. Almost immediately the city flew a drone over our property and determined we have 622,076 sq. ft. of impervious cover. This comes out a monthly drainage fee of \$2,186.57. The city refused to bill each homeowner and is instead billing our property management, who we are required to reimburse. As a result of this assessment, myself and the other members of the community had to raise association dues to cover our new drainage fees. Our condo property is 60% senior citizens, most of whom moved here to downsize. For us this monthly drainage fee is a massive burden.

Even as a senior citizen of 81 years of age, I continue to work a part-time job to keep up with the cost of living. So, not having to pay this drainage fee would be a welcome relief to me and to many citizens in similar financial situations.

I once again urge you to vote YES on HB 824.

Thank you Chairman Cortez and committee members for your time and favorable consideration

Chris Edmiston

Self

Austin, TX

I OPPOSE HB1382.

This bill is disguised as vote integrity and security but actually enables fraudulent ballots to be cast. Additionally, viewing a ballot result on a WWW site may have no bearing on the ballot that was actually counted. WWW sites are hacked regularly and are ripe with security vulnerabilities.

Robert Scott

Self - Retired

Colleyville, TX

I object to this bill as a limitation to voting rights and application of more open elections. This practice is in place in a number of states and there have been no documented cases of unwelcome outcomes (including fraud). I encourage extension and openness in voting registration and voting practices. When more Texans vote, democracy wins.

Christina Huckaba, Mrs.

Self retired Teacher

Boerne, TX

I support this bill.

shawn flanagan

self, retired

Corpus Christi, TX

This is a bad bill. It makes the voting system susceptible to hacking and it allows people who are not voters to track a voter. It is not needed and hurts election integrity.

Cathy Murphree

self

Richardson, TX

I support this bill. I am in Dallas County and have traced my mail-in ballot in previous elections. In Dallas County, this involves finding the list of ballots to begin with (not clear from website) then downloading a ZIPPED file, unzipping, and searching for voter name. Very archaic and cumbersome, and I suspect many people can't do this easily (case in point being my 92 year old mother, for whom I searched). An alternative is a phone call, but that can involve lots of waiting, call backs, etc.

In short, it's silly to not have a way to easily track a ballot online.

Thanks for introducing this bill, which I support.

Cathy Murphree

Robert Straiton

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Please do not pass this bill. It places voter information at risk and allows someone other than the voter with the ability to track voter status.

DONNA EYLES

Self

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

Since I am against voting by mail, in general, I think this would encourage more people to do so. Also, if a voter really cares about his ballot, he should cast that vote in person (assuming he is not disabled or out-of-town). Voting is a personal privilege and this bill would allow someone with another person's credentials to interfere with the integrity of the vote. This bill could easily promote voter fraud.

Please vote NO against HB 1382.

Larry Ringler

Self-retired

Portland, TX

I oppose this bill, which allows people who aren't the voter to track ballots, thus opening the door for fraud. Please vote against this bill.

Larry Beck

self

Denton, TX

I support House Bill 1382, which would require counties to provide online tracking for the entire process of requesting an application for a mail-in ballot until the completed ballot is accepted or rejected. This would reduce anxiety among voters and provide a more transparent, accurate and secure elections process. Please vote to support this bill

Diana Spain

Retired

Austin, TX

I'm writing to ask all members of the Committee to vote in favor of House Bill 1382, which would require counties to provide online tracking for the entire process of requesting an application for a mail-in ballot until the completed ballot is accepted or rejected. This would reduce anxiety among voters and provide a more transparent, accurate and secure elections process.

And I would like to ask the Committee members to vote against House Bill 25. It would prohibit counties from distributing unsolicited vote by mail applications even to voters 65 and over, who automatically qualify.

Thank you for your time. I appreciate your service.

Janet Ott

self, retired

Round Roc, TX

Please vote in FAVOR of HB 1382. Using technology to track mail-in ballots online from the start to the end of the process will provide a more transparent, accurate and secure election process. In addition, providing a tool for voters follow their vote by mail request from beginning to end will boost confidence in our election process. Thank you.

Eric Mann

Self

Dallas, TX

Support.

Hiten Patel, Mr

Self, Consultant

Cedar Park, TX

Good day,

My name is Hiten Patel and my zip code is 78613. I'm urging all Committee members to vote FOR House Bill 1382, which would require counties to provide online tracking for the entire process of requesting an application for a mail-in ballot until the completed ballot is accepted or rejected. This would reduce anxiety among voters and provide a more transparent, accurate and secure elections process.

In addition. I would like to ask all Committee members to vote AGAINST House Bill 25. It would prohibit counties from distributing unsolicited vote by mail applications even to voters over 65, who automatically qualify.

Thank you for your time. I appreciate your service.

Sharon Barnhouse

Democratic Party

Corinth, TX

I feel you should vote Yes on this Bill to provide safer and fair elections

Kirk Pate, Mr.

Self

Flatonia, TX

This voter supports HB1382 because is a voter participation expansion bill. By providing an online tracker for voters to track the status of their mail-in ballot from when their application is received through the acceptance or rejection of their ballot, voters by mail will have access at their fingertips information that they would otherwise struggle to obtain. This is definitely an election system confidence building bill.

Anne Mills

Self-retired educator

Commerce, TX

Support

Victoria Hanson

Self - Retired

Corpus Christi, TX

Our voting systems should not be accessible via the internet. To ensure the integrity of every vote, voting results should not be able to be accessed via the internet. This could allow access to the voting system in the State of Texas and would open the door to potential hacking and voter fraud. Each Texan must know their vote is secure. Please vote No on this bill.

Elizabeth Andrews

self, homemaker

Austin, TX

I support House Bill 1382, which would require counties to provide online tracking for the entire process of requesting an application for a mail-in ballot until the completed ballot is accepted or rejected. This would reduce anxiety among voters and provide a more transparent, accurate, and secure elections process.

Lorri Haden

Self/Retired

Austin, TX

Please support transparent, accurate and secure elections and vote FOR HB 1382.

Karen Collins

Self retired

Austin, TX

I support and hope you will vote yes on House Bill 1382, which would require counties to provide online tracking for the entire process of requesting an application for a mail-in ballot until the completed ballot is accepted or rejected. Transparency and secure voting is what we all deserve. This is a good Bill.

Joanna Beasley

self

College Station, TX

Support. This bill seems like a no-brainer! Yes, people should be able to check on the status of their ballots so they can cure them if necessary in time. And they shouldn't have to call up the voter office multiple times during business hours to keep checking. This would increase transparency, accuracy, trust, and security.

Kim Farlow
Myself
New Braunfels, TX

I totally support HB 1382. Providing a means for a ballot by mail voter to track the process of his/her ballot provides transparency, accuracy, and security to the voter. Many of states have successfully implemented these safeguards successfully to their ballot by mail voters and increased voter participation..

Ryan Beasley
self computer scientist
College Station, TX

support

Sharon Kremer
Indivisible TxLege
Denton, TX

Please support this bill, as I do. This bill would help make voting more secure and make voters more confident that their vote was counted.
Preserve Democracy in Texas. Support HB 1382

Joshua Tutt
Self
Somerville, TX

Please support HB 1382.

Texas has been voting by mail for more than a century. It is a discredit to our Secretary of State and our County Election officials to assert that the vote by mail portion of our election process has been anything but secure. There is not sufficient evidence that there was any risk to our election integrity in 2020, and in fact, there was ample evidence that it was done securely. With these factors in mind, it is apparent that supporting common sense improvements to our vote by mail ballot application tracking system only further guarantees accessibility and security for our voting system. HB 1382 would require counties to provide online tracking for the entire process of requesting an application for a mail-in ballot until the completed ballot is accepted or rejected. This would reduce anxiety among voters and provide a more transparent, accurate and secure elections process. Ensuring faith in our election system is important, and offering heightened transparency in our systems is a powerful step in that process.

Please support HB 1382.

Alexander Montalvo
self, consultant
Fort Worth, TX

Vote in favor of House Bill 1382, which would require counties to provide online tracking for the entire process of requesting an

application for a mail-in ballot until the completed ballot is accepted or rejected. This would reduce anxiety among voters and provide a more transparent, accurate, and secure elections process.

Jane Moeller

Self/Retired

New Braunfels, TX

I am for Bill 1382. This is a common sense way to follow voting by mail and helps those who think there's so much fraud and those who differ finding this form of voting best for retired elderly people and others who have to work and can't get off easily to vote.

I am against Bill 25 Distributing early voting ballots is just that....it's an application. It requires a LOT to make sure you are following procedures for early voting. It will insure you are the right person sending in the application. I went through this process and it required a matching of signature and when I turned it in, another matching....actually believe it was a truer vote than someone just showing an id or registration card. I believe voting is the most important act of a citizen and when we continue to make it more and more difficult to people wanting to vote, we're only suppressing not encouraging voting.

Dianna Berg

Personal

La Grange, TX

Oppose

scott mesmer

self

corpus christi, TX

The right to vote should apply to the right to privacy. No one who is not the voter should be able to track a ballot. This bill interferes with the integrity and privacy of the citizens vote. This bill destroys integrity and privacy please vote against HB 1382

Julie Garcia

self

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote Against! We need to close loop holes and stop voter fraud! This bill opens us up to Voter fraud!

Please vote against HB 1382.

Nina Brodsky

self

Austin, TX

I support this bill

Shawna Ford
Self, educator
Aledo, TX

I am in favor of House Bill 1382, which would require counties to provide online tracking for the entire process of requesting an application for a mail-in ballot until the completed ballot is accepted or rejected. This would reduce anxiety among voters and provide a more transparent, accurate and secure elections process.

Cyral Miller
self educational consultant
Austin, TX

I'm writing in favor of House Bill 1382, which would require counties to provide online tracking for the entire process of requesting an application for a mail-in ballot until the completed ballot is accepted or rejected. This would reduce anxiety among voters and provide a more transparent, accurate, and secure elections process.

Sandra Kelly
self
Denton, TX

Please vote in favor of House Bill 1382, which would require counties to provide online tracking for the entire process of requesting an application for a mail-in ballot until the completed ballot is accepted or rejected. This would reduce anxiety among voters and provide a more transparent, accurate, and secure elections process.

Thank you for your time. I appreciate your service.

Cinde Weatherby, Voting Rights/Election Law Ch.
League of Women Voters of Texas
Austin, TX

Support of HB 1382
-- In past elections, the League of Women Voters fielded many questions from voters who were anxious to know when they would receive their ballot by mail and if their marked ballots had been received and counted. HB 1382 would provide a great public service by allowing voters to electronically track their vote by mail application and the status of their marked ballot. Some of the uncertainties inherent in the current system of vote by mail ballots would be alleviated by HB 1382. We understand a committee substitute will be offered and we support the improvements made in it and appreciate the author's consideration of suggestions.

Valerie Street
Texas Progressive Action Network
Austin, TX

On behalf of Texas Progressive Action Network, I write to support HB 1382 as this is a necessary step towards strengthening our vote by mail system. A statewide tracking system for monitoring the status of a ballot would provide great comfort and clarity for

Texas voters who want to be able to track their VBM application as well as their completed ballot once it is in the mail. Personnel from the Secretary of State's office have already stated that this is an achievable task and we urge you to support it.

Rosa Oliveros

My self and my family

Schertz, TX

I'm in favor of HB 1382. Both my husband and I vote by mail and we would like to feel confident that our vote will count. We feel that voting is our only way of letting elected officials know our voice.

Shawn Troxell, Ms

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I'm asking you to vote in favor of House Bill 1382, which would require counties to provide online tracking for the entire process of requesting an application for a mail-in ballot until the completed ballot is accepted or rejected. This would reduce anxiety among voters and provide a more transparent, accurate and secure elections process.

And I would like to ask you to vote against House Bill 25. It would prohibit counties from distributing unsolicited vote by mail applications even to voters over 65, who automatically qualify.

Jennifer Lane

self

Denton, TX

I am writing to you all to vote in favor of House Bill 1382, which would require counties to provide online tracking for the entire process of requesting an application for a mail-in ballot until the completed ballot is accepted or rejected. This would reduce anxiety among voters and provide a more transparent, accurate and secure elections process. Thank you for your service.

Linda Maldonado

Self/Retired

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

Annette Spanhel

myself

Driftwood, TX

I strongly support!

Ellen Duncan

self

New Braunfels, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1382. My son was unable to vote in this year's presidential election because he never received his ballot though he applied for it in the summer. He has voted absentee in every election, taking his duty to vote very seriously. The first 4 years he received his ballots with no problem while a student in Virginia. As a law student at the University of Texas the first year he voted with ease until the presidential election. The Comal County elections office first gave him the wrong information (volunteers often get it wrong according to Cynthia Jaqua CCEO head) and told him his ballot had been mailed. It had not. Then some days I checked with the office on his behalf since I was doing my duty serving on the ballot board, the Elections Office head checked and it in fact had NEVER BEEN MAILED and claimed they never received his ballot request despite the fact that he had voted absentee for 5 1/2 years with ease. They ultimately mailed a new ballot though it was just at the deadline for absentee ballot requests and that ballot finally did come but two weeks AFTER the election due to POSTAL DELAYS. It's common sense to have electronic tracking. Why do we want to rely on volunteers in busy elections offices to provide such important information when this can be done with ease? Let's join modern times and make it EASIER for Texans to vote not more difficult!

Janet Dudding

Self

Bryan, TX

SUPPORT

Arthur Simon

self, artist

Austin, TX

I support this bill because voters deserve the right to track and confirm the status of their early vote.

Pamela Oglesby

None

Cedar Park, TX

This is excellent. Everything possible should be done to assist voters in accessing the polls and assuring them that their vote is counted.

Maryela Garza

Self

Weslaco, TX

Please certify that we use a secure method of voting such as paper ballots. Include the ability to have witnesses verifying counts of these ballots. Secure our votes!!

Carla Birk

self

Leander, TX

I have worked as a member of the EVBB and as a precinct judge for elections. My concern about the proposed system is the potential for abuse to "harvest" or coerce votes by making the details public information of who has outstanding ballots. We know of cases in Texas where political operatives illegally intercept and collect mailed ballots. We also have documented cases of coercion and illegal assistance. In person voting provides a high degree of safeguards against coerced voting, but mail ballots are completed and returned in private so those safeguards to the VOTER are not provided. Name, address, and voter ID are publicly available information. I suggest that the mailed ballot include a unique, secure "pin" number for the voter to use to lookup their returned ballot status via a proposed public portal. If the "pin" is lost, the voter can call the Early Voting Clerk as is normally done. Tracking mailed ballot status should not be provided in mass format such as computer readable files or printed reports since the purpose should be to inform an individual voter of their personal ballot status, not to be used for public, political targeting. To address whether a ballot is mailed, the law should provide deadlines for the clerk to mail the ballots so voters know if the required deadline has passed and therefore such voter should follow up with the clerk directly as is currently the case.

Beverly Kuhn

Self

College Station, TX

I support this bill

Amanda Reed

Represent Us Texas

Frisco, TX

Dear Elections Committee,

Thank you for taking our public comments. I am writing in support of HB1382. Voting by mail was a vital part of Texans being able to voice their vote even in the midst of a pandemic and was used to great effects in the past November elections. I am proud that Texas had no major voter fraud issues. I think that any measures that allow for better tracking of vote-by-mail applications and ballots will take pressure off of over-worked counties and lead to better electoral turnout and results. The United States and Texas need to be an example to the rest of the world of incredible voter participation and civic engagement.

Thank you for helping Texas citizens participate in their government!

Amanda

Carol Edwards

self / retired

Austin, TX

I think it is extremely important to require counties to provide online tracking for the entire process of requesting an application for a mail-in ballot until the completed ballot is accepted or rejected! Yesterday I completed & mailed my own *mail-in ballot for 2021, as I am 80 years old.

I can not trust my own *USPS mail delivery so I drove the application to the post office to mail. *I have had a change of post-delivery people 3-4 times in the last year. Letters for me from Social Security have been delivered to neighbors, who fortunately returned them to me. I have 3 different postal carriers come to my home weekly; sometimes early a.m. and sometimes after 5 p.m. Sometimes they put my mail in a wire basket rather than my obvious mail box. Our USPS is broken & we can not be sure our application to vote by mail is delivered to the county election division UNLESS IT IS TRACKED??

Bianca Gracia, Mrs

Latinos for America First, Latinos for Trump, Lideres de la Comunidad, and Americanos Conservative United
Pasadena, TX

Our organization over over 10k members and 2k Hispanic Evangelicals support this bill.

Diana Sharp

Democratic Women of Comal County

New Braunfels, TX

SUPPORT HB 1382

Kathy Turner

self, retired

McGregor, TX

I am against the provision in this bill that the tracking system would be developed locally. These tracking systems need to be standardized statewide with development and software maintenance the responsibility of the SOS.

Judith Balch

Self-Retired School Counselor

La Grange, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Hearing all the controversy about security in the voting system, I believe that a secure program to track and verify all votes by mail would soothe some of the fears. I participated as a poll worker and a vote-by-mail participant in the last election and I did not personally experience any problems with voting. For anyone concerned about fraudulent votes by mail this system would be an additional layer of security so that vote-by-mail can continue and be expanded to everyone.

Annie Compton

self

Austin, TX

Support
